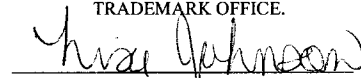


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Steven A. Olsen	Examiner: A, Phi Dieu Tran
Appln. No.: 09/960,537	Group Art Unit: 3637
Filing Date: September 21, 2001	Confirmation No.: 5282
Title: RETRACTABLE COLUMN AND METHOD OF FORMING	Customer No.: 25764
	Docket No. 78753-332261

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I CERTIFY THAT OCTOBER 23, 2006, THIS PAPER IS BEING
TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO THE U.S. PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE.


Lisa Johnson

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This Response is in reply to the outstanding Office Action mailed July 31, 2006. This Response includes the following:

Amendments to the Specification beginning on page 2 of this paper

Claim Amendments beginning on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 10 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing the changes.

Remarks beginning on page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 14 of this paper.